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ABSTRACT

This 60 minute videotape is a live satellite presentation of the American Association of Community Colleges' 75th Annual Convention in 1995. Speeches by former Secretary of Labor, Robert Reich, and former Secretary of Education, Richard Riley, are followed by the presidential address to community colleges by former President Bill Clinton. He states that America is going forward and has the lowest combined rate of unemployment and inflation in 25 years. However, sixty percent of the people are living on the same or lower wages than they were making 10 years ago because of a combined effect of the global economy and the technology revolution, and the lack of government response to both. America's common mission must be focused on a relentless determination to see that every American lives up to his or her fullest capacity. There is a need to reduce the deficit but the Pell Grant program should be increased, not decreased. One bad approach to cutting the deficit is to start charging interests on student loans while students are still in school. The Direct Student Loan Program cuts the cost of college loans, cuts the bureaucratic paperwork, and gives students more options for repaying loans. This would help reduce the deficit without reducing education. (JA)

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